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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nunez DATE TYPED: 02/09/03 HB 96

SHORT TITLE: NMSU Water Management Research SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST: Williams

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$330.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 66, HB 97  
Duplicate of SB 67

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
Commission on Higher Education (CHE)  
New Mexico State University, Water Resources Research Institute (WRI)  
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 96 appropriates \$330.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for research on water conservation, planning and management.

#### Significant Issues

CHE notes NMSU submitted an expansion request of \$330.0 for new water initiatives in addition to the request of \$397.4 for current operations. The water initiatives request was ranked by NMSU as #11 out of 13 research and public service requests submitted to CHE. CHE notes its funding recommendation included \$300.0 for water initiatives at WRI.

This is a Water and Natural Resources Committee-sponsored bill.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$330.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 04 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC budget recommendation for WRRI is \$349.2, down five percent from FY 03.

**ALTERNATIVES**

CHE notes the potential for the use of indirect cost revenues as an alternative funding source.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

OSE notes the ongoing drought has emphasized need for water planning and management.

OSE further notes WRRI should cooperate with the water and conservation section of that office because the United States Bureau of Reclamation has reduced funding for the Water Use Conservation Bureau. OSE notes additional funding for the Water Use Conservation Bureau is needed.

CHE notes four potential performance measures:

1. Number of projects funded; total value of projects funded;
2. Number of students receiving training;
3. Number of NM WRRI publications, journal articles and graduate theses or dissertations;
4. Interactions with agencies through funding, participation in conferences, technical symposiums, planning meetings; requests for information.

**AW/prr**